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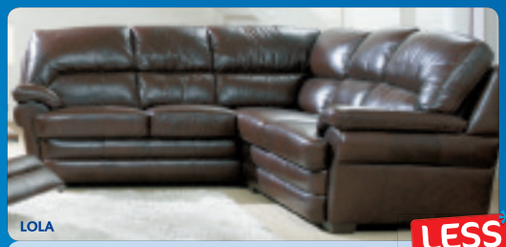

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'Help the children of Chernobyl'

Plea 25 years after disaster

By NEIL DOCKING

A charity set up to help children affected by the worst nuclear disaster in history has asked for East Lancashire's support ahead of the 25th anniversary.

The Chernobyl nuclear power plant reactor accident, in Ukraine, on April 26, 1986, changed the lives of millions of people. Large areas of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia were badly contaminated by radioactive fallout. The disaster caused 56 direct deaths and an estimated 4,000 further deaths from cancer.

But land in Belarus, from which food and water is consumed, will be contaminated for thousands of years, and it is still causing brain and bone diseases, cancers and sterility today.

The Friends of Chernobyl's Children Charity was formed in 1994 to provide recuperative care and support to families in Belarus.

It has branches in Blackburn and Clitheroe, which bring disadvantaged Belarussian children, aged between seven and 12, to the UK for four-week holidays each year to East Lancashire.

Liz Skupski, East Lancashire branch organiser, said: "The children need to leave their country to detoxify their systems for four weeks at least once a year.

"They need to breathe clean air and eat clean food and recuperate from the polluted air they breathe. While here the children visits dentists and opticians and have basic health checks and in this way we can give the children of Belarus a fighting chance.

"Even so a number of children in our care have died from brain tumours and cancers, and more recently one of the little girls who has visited this country for the past five years had surgery for ovarian cancer, at the age of 12."

The charity must raise £500 per child each year to continue its care, and needs host families from across East Lancashire.

And Liz said the Fukushima nuclear emergency, which Japanese officials have upgraded to the same crisis level as Chernobyl, must serve as a warning not to forget its legacy.

To make a donation, or host a child, contact Liz on 01254 247883, or Heather Whittaker, Clitheroe co-ordinator, on 01200 429112.

Rally: A classy chassis

ALL GEARED UP: Blackburn-based Lancashire Automobile Club celebrated St George's Day with a vintage and classic car rally through the Ribble Valley, starting and finishing at Mitton Hall, Whalley. The run, flagged off by well-known enthusiast Roy Honeywell, was part of the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Club's 'Drive It' day. Richard and Liz Bradley prepare for the off in their Triumph TR6.

'Bag it, bin it' plea over dog mess

A Blackburn councillor is funding his own campaign to rid his area of dog mess, giving out free bags to encourage owners to clean up after their pets.

STORY 3

MUSICAL GHOST

Richard Fleeshman and Caissie Levy star in Ghost the musical at Manchester Opera House, promising tears, laughter – and amazing magic tricks created by Harry Potter illusionist Paul Kieve.

STORY 11

Backing appeal

Cancer battler Brenda Musgrove, from Accrington, is backing our sister newspaper's appeal to replace the roof at East Lancashire Hospice.

4

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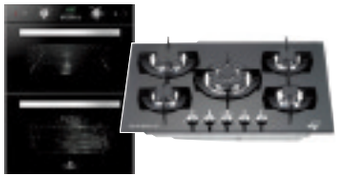

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Citizen In brief

Ladies in the pink for club centenary

A Ladies Day, on a pink and silver theme, will be held at Darwen Cricket Club, in Birch Hall, on June 4, as part of the club's centenary celebrations. Running from 3pm until midnight, the event features entertainment from Elvis impersonator Jay Ashton, above, drinks and a buffet. Tickets cost £30. For more details, visit www.darwencricket.co.uk

Author to visit

Blackburn Library still has a few tickets for the visit of novelist Emma Henderson on May 4, at 1.30pm, to discuss her new book, 'Grace Williams Says It Loud'. The story is a tribute to her elder sister, who was severely disabled and lived much of her life in an institution. Tickets cost £1 from the library.

The Citizen
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Campaign to rid area of dog mess

By NEIL DOCKING

A councillor has funded dog dirt bags out of his own pocket to help rid Blackburn's Shadsworth and Whitebirk of dog mess.

Coun Ron O'Keeffe said he would be putting up posters and handing out letters to dog owners as part of a campaign to encourage people to clean up after their pets.

He said: "Every time we have community meetings, dog dirt and complaints about it being on pavements, grass verges, playing fields, and so forth, come up.

"I got in touch with Keep Britain Tidy and they sent me 30 or 40 posters which I've had laminated, and I've got permission from the legal department at the council and Capita to have them put on lampposts.

"I've got somebody supplying me the bags at a very low price and I'm going to put them in bundles and give them out for free.

BAG IT, BIN IT: Coun Ron O'Keeffe with one of the posters he is putting up on lampposts in Shadsworth and Whitebirk

"I've got a lot of Keep Britain Tidy leaflets, which I will hand out to dog owners when I see them, and a letter from me asking them to use the free bags."

The bags will be available at Halls General Store, Shadsworth Road, at Shadsworth Community Centre on Tuesdays, from 9.30am to 11am, and at Knuzden Church Hall on Saturdays, from 1pm to 3pm.

The former magistrate said: "I do a lot of litter picking around the ward and the other day I went out on Shadsworth playing field.

"I must have picked up about 20 full bags. People are collecting in bags, but then leaving the bags on the playing field, which is useless.

"The message will be put it in a bin, or take it home and put it in your own bin.

"At one time you couldn't do that, but now the law says you can put it in your domestic bin."

Last week a Nelson man was forced to pay more than £400 for failing to clean up after his dog.

Coun O'Keeffe said he was in favour of the punishment given to Martin Rouski, 38, who was caught by Pendle Council's environmental crime officers letting his border collie foul in Conduit Street in October last year.

Jill Partington, of Keep Britain Tidy, said the charity supported Coun O'Keeffe's efforts.

She said: "Dog mess is not only unsightly, but poses a real health threat to the public."

JOIN THE DEBATE
What more can we do to get rid of dog mess?
blackburncitizen.co.uk/news
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Hospice lifeline

Cancer battler backs fundraising campaign

Brenda Musgrove is not the kind of person who takes setbacks lying down.

In less than a year the grandmother-of-four, from Accrington, has fought two cancers, ovarian and cervical, and had a hysterectomy.

Brenda, 58, has just finished radiotherapy and is waiting to find out whether the cancers have been defeated.

But when our sister newspaper the Lancashire Telegraph launched its £125,000 Raise The Roof appeal to replace the roof at East Lancashire Hospice's inpatients unit, Brenda was determined to get involved.

She visits the day therapy unit twice a week, taking part in exercise and relaxation sessions, chatting with friends and enjoying crafts.

She said: "I struggle, but I've got a strong personality and I keep going. I'm a fighter.

"This is a fantastic place. If I couldn't come here two days a week I would be in a six-foot box now. It's a lifeline.

"They do such stunning work and the staff here are unbelievable."

Brenda has put her experience as a Shopmobility fundraiser to good use, organising a series of bucket collections and sales across her home town.

She will lead a stall at Accrington Market on April 30, with a tombola including prizes donated by Pasco Sav hairdressers and Fresh Carpets, in Whalley Road; and on May 6 and 7 will join a team collecting in Broadway.

SUPPORT: Brenda Musgrove is collecting for the hospice

How you can donate

East Lancashire Hospice has introduced a new mobile phone text message donation service especially for this campaign. Here are the ways to donate:

- Text ROOF to 70700. Texts cost £5 plus network charge. East Lancashire Hospice receives at least £4.45. Obtain bill payers permission. Customer care 08448479800. Charity No 1075653.
- Alternatively you can donate online at www.eastlancshospice.org.uk/roof-appeal. Remember to add the word 'roof' in the comment section so it is clear the donation is for this appeal.
- You can make a payment at any Yorkshire Bank, Account No 22741541, Sort Code 05-02-52.
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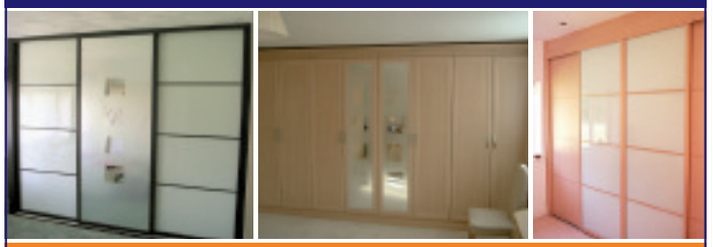

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Bus cuts leave OAPs 'prisoners'

By CATHERINE PYE

Elderly people will be made "prisoners in their own homes" when bus routes are scrapped on May 8, according to Blackburn residents.

Lancashire United, who run the Spot On services, made the decision after Blackburn with Darwen Council pulled a £400,000 subsidy on unprofitable routes due to budget cuts.

Services 13 and 13A, from Mellor to Beardwood, have been withdrawn, as well as the 2A which operates via Guide, and the early morning service of 12C. Other routes will run a reduced service.

John Smith, 64, of Wensley Road, is concerned about the effect the withdrawl of services 13 and 13A will have on his elderly neighbours. He said: "There are a lot of people in their 70s and 80s in this area and they rely on public transport to get about. Removing the bus will cause a lot of distress.

CONCERNED: John Smith

"The problems began when the Government gave all pensioners a free bus pass, it just wasn't sustainable, and now we are seeing bus companies suffering because of it. A lot of the people I know wouldn't have any qualms in paying a reduced pensioner's rate of something like 50p, rather than getting something for free, but not being able to use it."

Irene Harling, 85, of Whinney Lane, Blackburn, gave up driving two years ago and now relies on buses to get around. "People in Mellor, Lammack and Beardwood will be left with nothing," she said.

Marketing director of Transdev Lancashire United, Nigel Eggleton, said the company "reluctantly" decided not to continue with services making significant losses. On service 13, he said: "It comes nowhere near covering its costs. We realise that if you are one of the handful of people using the service withdrawal is a big issue."

"We reviewed the 2A service via Guide two years ago and we were encouraged to give it one last chance. But passenger numbers have continued to fall and we can no longer keep it going. It is a similar story in Beardwood and Wensley Fold."

Lancashire United is to improve 'key links', including doubling the frequency on service 2 to the Royal Blackburn Hospital, and a new Shadsworth link.

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Gifts for growers

Incredible Edible food growers at Belfield and Rothwell Community Garden, Accrington, have been given a polytunnel by Nuttall Street's John the Barber, and two benches from Coun Tony Dobson.

Latest sight loss aids

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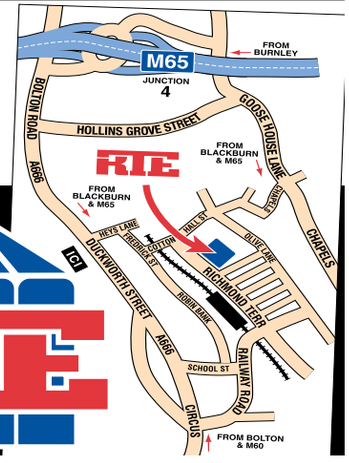

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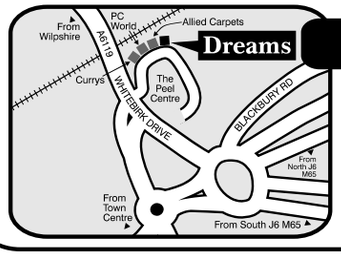

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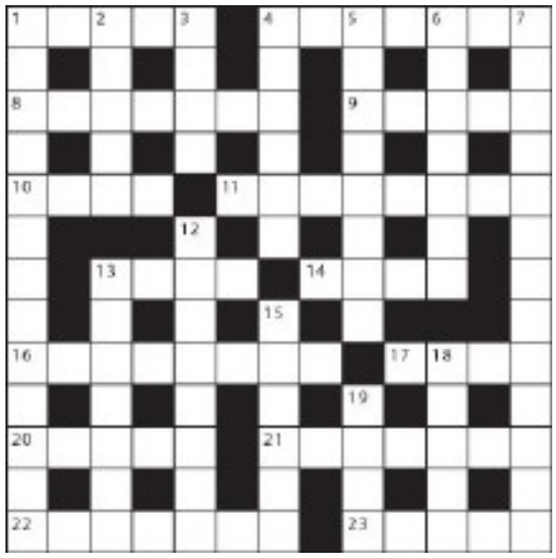

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

1. Muffler can leave mark on fathead (5)
4. Rashly identified? (7)
8. Feeling egghead needs movement (7)
9. Where cricketers can make mistakes? (5)
10. Leap to make excuse (4)
11. Deception taken in by the pupils, presumably (8)
13. Put a levy on one cab (4)
14. Do business in timber (4)
16. Tuition in transport (8)
17. An area to care about (4)
20. Decorate part instead - or none of it (5)
21. Former single period (3-4)
22. Deceive with awfully mad lies (7)
23. Pay for entertainment to try to cure (5)

Down

1. Too wide an assertion of demand on brushwork (8,5)
2. A 50-to-1 meeting on its own (5)
3. Thwart with silver paper (4)
4. 45 and unmarried (6)
5. Not clear that the old boys had been made better (8)
6. Unimportant court examination about four (7)
7. Release from ties of forthcoming marriage? (13)
12. A place for swapping, e.g. telephone calls? (8)
13. Unruly poets at containers for beverage (3,4)
15. Reveal United Nations pen (6)
18. We need the force, with capital, to fight it (5)
19. Made a loan fast (4)

QUICK CLUES

Across

1. Bury (5)
4. Lower (7)
8. Great joy (7)
9. Pick-up (5)
10. Excuse (4)
11. Awful (8)
13. Stag (4)
14. Labyrinth (4)
16. Harsh (8)
17. Pain (4)
20. Canal boat (5)
21. Blow up (7)
22. Corrected (7)
23. Urge (5)

Down

1. Unutterable (13)
2. Commerce (5)
3. Destroy (4)
4. Peril (6)
5. Fatherly (8)
6. Exalt (7)
7. Reticence (13)
12. Help (8)
13. Varied (7)
15. Go to (6)
18. Arc (5)
19. Applaud (4)

Solutions

Quick answers:
Across: 1 Inter; 4 Deprress; 8 Elation; 9 Tonic; 10 Plea; 11 Terrible; 13 Deer; 14 Maze; 16 Severity; 17 Ache; 20 Barge; 21 Enlarge; 22 Emended; 23 Press. **Down:** 1 Inexpressible; 2 Trade; 3 Ruin; 4 Danger; 5 Paternal; 6 Ennoble; 7 Secretiveness; 12 Befriend; 13 Diverse; 15 Attend; 18 Curve; 19 Clap.

Cryptic Answers:
Across: 1 Scarf; 4 Spotted; 8 Emotion; 9 Slips; 10 Plea; 11 Illusion; 13 Taxi; 14 Deal; 16 Coaching; 17 Acre; 20 Adorn; 21 One-time; 22 Mislead; 23 Treat. **Down:** 1 Sweeping claim; 2 Alone; 3 Foil; 4 Single; 5 Obscured; 6 Trivial; 7 Disengagement; 12 Exchange; 13 Tea pots; 15 Unfold; 18 Crime; 19 Lent.

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CitizenTime

Jason's jokes off the wall!

Irish comedian Jason Byrne has been a smash on the stand-up circuit for years and his tours are consistently sold out. He talks about his ambitions, and reveals the unusual way he comes up with material.

60 SECONDS WITH ... JASON BYRNE

HOW DO YOU COME UP WITH YOUR MATERIAL?
I get a load of paper, write jokes on them, I then dip them in water, sit across from a wall and throw the paper at the wall. Whatever sticks to the wall is the stuff I use that night.

ARE YOU AN AMBITIOUS PERSON? WHAT QUALIFIES AS 'SUCCESS' FOR YOU?
It's not that I'm ambitious, it's that I like to try new things all the time, as I get bored easily. So success to me is always doing something new and different.

YOU DESCRIBE YOUR FAMILY LIFE IN DETAIL IN YOUR ACT. HOW DOES YOUR FAMILY FEEL ABOUT THAT?
It's totally fictional. When people meet my real wife they are very surprised to meet a gentle, tall, beautiful woman.

DO YOU FEEL A DUTY TO BE FUNNY ALL THE TIME?
No, but I do like to mess about. I have a good laugh with my mates, but it's not me with a torch shone in my face doing all the talking. They're just as funny as me and way more evil.

WHO IS THE ONE PERSON YOU WOULD LOVE TO IMPRESS?
God, so when I arrive in Heaven I just want him to turn to me about my life, pat me on the back, and say, 'Good gig Jason, good gig'.

What's on

theatre

THE DEMOLITION MAN — Bolton Octagon, until Saturday, May 7.
AFTER TROY — The Lowry, Salford Quays, Wednesday, April 27 to Saturday, April 30.
SPARKIES — Thwaites Empire Theatre, Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30.
AN INSPECTOR CALLS — Chorley Little Theatre, Monday, May 2 to Saturday, May 7.
THE GHOST TRAIN — Blackburn Arts Club, Gibraltar Street, May 3 to 7.

gigs

ALASDAIR ROBERTS — The Grand, Clitheroe, Wednesday, April 20.
EMPIRE STATE — Thwaites Empire Theatre, Blackburn, Wednesday, April 20.
THE SAW DOCTORS — Albert Halls, Bolton, Thursday, April 21.
BUDDY WHITTINGTON — Bury Met, Thursday, April 21.
PURESSENCE — Manchester Ritz, Thursday, April 21.
PAUL RODGERS — Manchester Apollo, Thursday, April 21.
KATRIONA GILMORE and JAMIE ROBERTS — Bury Met, Thursday, April 21.
THE BLOCKHEADS — The Grand, Clitheroe, Friday, April 22.
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'Ghost' is resurrected

It's been the most anticipated new musical of the year and now it's here Ghost does not disappoint.

It'll make you laugh out loud and cry real tears – the Bruce Joel Rubin story truly is a timeless fantasy.

The musical had a tough act to follow attempting to recreate the iconic 1990s blockbuster that was one of Patrick Swayze's most-loved films.

But Ghost the musical is far superior to many film-to-stage adaptations. Dave Stewart and Glen Ballard's original music and lyrics take the classic love story to new emotional heights.

Leads Richard Fleeshman (Sam) and Caissie Levy (Molly) are a natural and convincing couple and shine throughout, with a strong score of solo and duet ballads. Fleeshman proves his Corrie days are well and truly behind him with a consistently brilliant performance, which no doubt prompted the emotional standing ovation of the night.

Another star is Sharon D. Clark, who portrays fake psychic Oda Ma Brown with attitude and some much-needed comedy. She is a real crowd-pleaser and her upbeat songs are some of the best in the score. Director Matthew Warchus has stayed faithful to the original material, which fits the musical concept like a glove, but there are plenty of little tweaks to bring it up to date.

LOVE STORY: Richard Fleeshman and Caissie Levy star in Ghost

A dazzling set, complete with video projection and a moving floor, makes for an eye-catching backdrop, complemented by an energetic, albeit slightly overused, chorus line. But what really gives this musical the wow factor are the magic tricks created by Harry Potter illusionist Paul Kieve.

Fleesham is seen walking through walls and doors, while objects appear to float in thin air, and the scenes on the subway really have to be seen to be believed. But the best illusions are saved for the very end – but I won't spoil the magic.

● Ghost, Opera House, Manchester, until May 14. Box office 0844 847 2277.

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THE EAGLE (12A) 20 years on Marcus attempts to learn the truth about the demise of his father in 120 AD when the entire Ninth Legion vanished in Scotland.

MARS NEEDS MOMS 3D (PG)) Milo, nine, doesn't appreciate his mother as much as he should. Martians descend from the skies and kidnap her.

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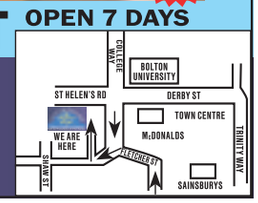

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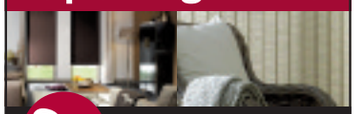

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Any creditor who has not lodged a proof of debt in the above matter must do so by 11th May 2011, or will be excluded from dividend. Creditors should send their claims to Timothy John Hargreaves, T H Associates, 1st Floor, Chandler House, 5 Talbot Road, Leyland, Lancashire PR25 2ZF.

Dated: 18 April 2011
T J Hargreaves, Trustee

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